IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the following paragraphs as follows:

[0011] In certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, an endodontic instrument includes an elongated shaft having an upper end and a lower end, and a stop fixed to the shaft at a distance between 6-8 mm from the lower end. The stop is preferably permanently fixed to the shaft of the instrument. The stop fixed to the shaft may be circular or have another geometric shape, such as a polygon. The endodontic instrument also preferably includes a cutting head located along the shaft adjacent the lower end thereof. In certain preferred embodiments, the cutting head preferably has an annular cutting surface extending about a first circumferential portion of the cutting head and a flat non-cutting surface extending about a second circumferential portion of the cutting head. The annular cutting surface preferably includes a spherical cutting surface having cutting edges provided thereon. In other preferred embodiments, the lower end of the shaft has a tip, such as a pointed tip. The tip desirably projects beyond a lower end of the cutting head.

[0039] The endodontic instrument 100 also preferably includes a cutting head 112 located along the shaft 102 adjacent the pointed tip 108. The cutting head 112 is preferably permanently affixed to the shaft and has a cross-sectional diameter that extends beyond the cross-sectional diameter of the shaft 102 in the vicinity of the lower end of the shaft. The cutting head may be integrally connected with the shaft 102 and may be made of the same material as the shaft. Referring to FIG. 4, in certain preferred embodiments the cutting head 112 has an annular cutting surface extending about a first circumferential portion 114 of the cutting head and a flat, non-cutting surface extending about a second circumferential portion 116 of the cutting head. The cutting head also includes cutting edges 118

provided on the annular cutting surface thereof. The cutting edges 118 may be in the form of helical threads. In certain preferred embodiments, the annular cutting surface includes a spherical cutting surface having cutting edges provided thereon.